

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claim 1 has been amended herein. New claims 14-19 are presented herein. All of the pending claims 1 through 10, 13, and 14 through 19 are presented below. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application. Please enter these claims as amended.

Listing of the Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A method for obtaining RNA silencing of a target gene in a host, the method comprising:

introducing a recombinant gene into ~~[[a]]~~ the host, the host comprising an RNA-silenced locus and the target gene, wherein

the recombinant gene comprises a first region of at least 23 contiguous nucleotides ~~that substantially are at least 60% homologous~~ identical with at least 23 contiguous nucleotides of the RNA-silenced locus of the host and

the target gene of the host comprises a region of at least 23 contiguous nucleotides that are ~~substantially at least 60% homologous with~~ identical with at least 23 contiguous nucleotides of a second region of the recombinant gene, but wherein the target gene of the host has no significant homology with the RNA-silenced locus of the host,

thus RNA silencing the target gene in the host.

2. (Original) The method according to claim 1 wherein the host comprises a plant cell.

3. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 1 wherein the RNA silencing of the target gene is obtained more than 95% of the time in the host.

4. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 2 wherein the RNA silencing of the target gene is obtained more than 95% of the time in the host.

5. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 1 wherein RNA silencing of the target gene is obtained more than 85% of the time in the host.

6. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 2 wherein RNA silencing of the target gene is obtained more than 85% of the time in the host.

7. (Original) The method according to claim 1 wherein the RNA silencing of the target gene occurs at an efficiency of more than 95% as compared to the level of the unsilenced expression of the target gene.

8. (Original) The method according to claim 2 wherein the RNA silencing of the target gene occurs at an efficiency of more than 95% as compared to the level of the unsilenced expression of the target gene.

9. (Original) The method according to claim 1 wherein the RNA silencing of the target gene occurs at an efficiency of more than 85 % as compared to the level of the unsilenced expression of the target gene.

10. (Original) The method according to claim 2 wherein the RNA silencing of the target gene occurs at an efficiency of more than 85 % as compared to the level of the unsilenced expression of the target gene.

11. (Cancelled).

12. (Cancelled).

13. (Withdrawn) A plant or plant cell comprising a silenced target gene obtainable by the method according to claim 1.

14. (New) A method for obtaining RNA silencing of a target gene in a host, the method comprising:

introducing a recombinant gene into the host, the host comprising an RNA-silenced locus and the target gene, wherein

the recombinant gene comprises a first region of at least 23 contiguous nucleotides identical with at least 23 contiguous nucleotides of the RNA-silenced locus of the host and

the target gene of the host comprises a region of at least 23 contiguous nucleotides that are identical with at least 23 contiguous nucleotides of a second region of the recombinant gene, but wherein the target gene of the host has no significant homology with the RNA-silenced locus of the host,

thus RNA silencing the target gene in the host.

15. (New) The method according to claim 14 wherein the host comprises a plant cell.

16. (New) A method for obtaining RNA silencing of a target gene in a host, the method comprising:

introducing a recombinant gene into the host, the host comprising an RNA-silenced locus and the target gene, wherein

the recombinant gene comprises a first region consisting essentially of at least 23 contiguous nucleotides identical with at least 23 contiguous nucleotides of the RNA-silenced locus of the host and

the target gene of the host comprises a region consisting essentially of at least 23 contiguous nucleotides that are identical with at least 23 contiguous nucleotides of a second region of the recombinant gene, but wherein the target gene of the host has no significant homology with the RNA-silenced locus of the host,

thus RNA silencing the target gene in the host.

17. (New) The method according to claim 16 wherein the host comprises a plant cell.

18. (New) A method for obtaining RNA silencing of a target gene in a host, the method comprising:

introducing a recombinant gene into the host, the host comprising an RNA-silenced locus and the target gene, wherein

the RNA-silenced locus of the host comprises a means for targeting the recombinant gene for posttranscriptional gene silencing and

the recombinant gene comprises a means for targeting the target gene for posttranscriptional gene silencing, but wherein the target gene of the host has no significant homology with the RNA-silenced locus of the host,

thus RNA silencing the target gene in the host.

19. (New) The method according to claim 18 wherein the host comprises a plant cell.